

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for her time and consideration during an Interview conducted Thursday, 29 March 2007. Although agreement about acceptable claims was not reached, the currently-presented amendments were discussed and deemed to require an additional search. Consequently, Applicants present these preliminary amendments in connection with a Request for Continued Examination.

Claims 9-16, 24-30 and 35-38 were examined. All claims were rejected. In response to the above-identified Office Action, Applicants amend claims 9, 16, 24 and 28, cancel previously-withdrawn claims 1-8, 15, 17-23, 27 and 35-38, and add new claims 39-43. Support for the new claims is at [0079]-[0081], [0093], [00126], and in Figures 15-17; no new material is added.

Examination of the rejected claims and new claims in light of the aforementioned amendments and the following remarks is requested.

I. Amended Claims

Independent claims 9 and 24 are amended as discussed during the Examiner Interview. The changes make clear that the database is to store lists of shared files available from peer computers on a peer-to-peer network, and that the claimed system or method *receives* the list of shared files. These features are not present in the references of record, so claims 9 and 24, and their dependent claims 10-16 and 25-30 (respectively) are believed to be patentable over those references.

II. New Claims

Independent claim 39 recites a method of reporting on shared files available through a peer-to-peer network comprising several operations, including generating a report based on inventories of shared files that are stored

in a database. This claim is believed to be patentable at least because of the report generation; the references of record do not generate such reports. (The Examiner relies on U.S. Patent Application 2003/0105831 by O'Kane ("*O'Kane*") for a report preparation server in the rejection of claim 13, but *O'Kane*'s reports seem to concern royalty payments, not inventories of shared files.)

Dependent claims 40-43 add further refining features to claim 39, and are patentable at least because of the novel features of their base claim. Applicants respectfully request that these claims be allowed.

III. Allowable Material

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has determined that claims 15, 16, 27 and 28 contain allowable material.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending, namely claims 9-16, 24-30 and 39-43, patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record, and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be useful in moving the application forward to allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (503)439-8778.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN, LLP

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Gregory D. Caldwell, Reg. No. 39,926

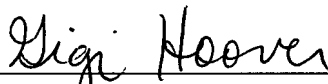
12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025

(310) 207-3800

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